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TO: DOE Partners
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- TUESDAY TELEGRAPH - Kindergarten Readiness – Dedicated Issue

News from the Office of Early Childhood Education at the DOE

The Office of Early Childhood Education announces the start of the public comment period for two documents found on the Early Childhood page of the New Hampshire Department of Education website. The direct link to the page is: http://www.education.nh.gov/instruction/curriculum/early_learning.htm

Welcome Back! The instructional year has begun, and this issue of the Tuesday Telegraph presents two documents to inform instruction, assessment and curriculum planning for this Kindergarten school year, 2012-2013. **These are considered draft documents and are for public review and comment. All public comments will be considered and can be e-mailed to Patricia.Ewen@doe.nh.gov by the end of business October 1, 2012.**

New Hampshire defines kindergarten readiness as “children possessing the skills, knowledge and attitudes necessary for success in school and for later learning and life. Kindergarten readiness is a shared collaboration between families, schools and communities promoting student success.”

The New Hampshire Kindergarten Readiness Indicators (KRI) document provides a list of readiness indicators that can be assessed using research-based assessment tools. These indicators are for guiding children as they enter Kindergarten programs and prepare to meet the expectations of public education and the Common Core State Standards. Not a checklist or an assessment tool, these indicators are to organize instructional decisions for children, in order to build on their individual strengths and weaknesses. The Kindergarten Indicators identify six domains of readiness:

- 1) Language and Literacy/Language Arts;
- 2) Cognition & General Knowledge: Mathematics;
- 3) Cognition and General Knowledge: Social Studies and Science;
- 4) Approaches to Learning/Music & Art;

- 5) Social & Emotional Development; and
- 6) Physical Development & Health/Physical Education.

The **New Hampshire Kindergarten ½ day program Common Core State Standards Pacing Guide** encompasses documents from the Department of Education that are currently in use in New Hampshire. Using the NH School Approval Minimum Standards of 2005 and incorporating the higher student expectations of the CCSS from 2010, this guide attempts to address the need to prioritize Kindergarten curriculum in ½ day programs. Although over 30% of New Hampshire Kindergartens are full day classes and can align to the CCSS without modifications for time, just under 70% of our programs will need to carefully plan Kindergarten curriculum that attends to the first and second grade expectations of the CCSS. This guide can be used to organize curriculum, facilitate vertical articulation agreements between K, 1st and 2nd grade teachers and inspire full adoption to the CCSS in primary education programs.

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